



Dear Parents & Carers

Three weeks into the start of the new term and we are delighted to have the children back in school and learning. The attitude from the pupils, back in school from the long break, has been wonderful with them all keen and enthusiastic whilst also following the many new rules that the school has had to impose.

Please can I remind parents that it is vital to observe the new rules and maintain social distancing from each other at all times. We currently allow pupils to be dropped off and collected between **8:30am – 9:00am** and **2:50pm – 3:10pm**. We have however, noticed that it gets particularly busy between 2:50pm – 3:00pm, please could parents try to avoid this time to spread the number of people more evenly. Can I also encourage you to leave as soon as you drop your child and not to block entrances or exits?

All of these rules are to ensure that we control the virus at school and keep the school as safe as possible for the pupils and my staff.



### Home Learning

As I am sure you have seen at other schools, if a year group has a positive Covid result, that particular year group will be sent home for 14 days to isolate and even with a negative test, the children will not be allowed to return during this time. As there is a strong possibility of this happening we are keen to ensure our home learning systems are ready to go. I will be sending out a Parent Survey to have an understanding of the technology available in each family, so we can continue to support the pupils during their period of isolation.

### Catch up Programme for Pupils

The government has provided the school with a small amount of money to support the pupils' learning. We are currently looking at the best way to spend this money. I would like to remind all parents that you can support your children in their learning by hearing them read every night and supporting their vocabulary by talking to them as much as possible about the world around them. Together we can ensure they reach their potential.



### Judith Harwood Director of Education for Plymouth

Below is a letter sent to all schools from the Director of Education for Plymouth. I would like to draw your attention to the second bullet point about the cough. I hope this will support all of us to identify the symptoms of Covid-19, especially when so many pupils have normal winter coughs and colds.

It has been great to see so many children and young people returning to school and the work that has been conducted locally to ensure a safe return. It is inevitable that for some children and young people they will feel unwell and for many this could include Covid related symptoms.

This message contains important information about how you can get a test. You cannot get a test by arriving at the Testing Centre without an appointment and you should not go to the hospital (Emergency Department) or your GP for a test.

Evidence to date has shown that children usually have much milder symptoms and they have tended to pick up the infection from home rather than from school. However it remains extremely important that any child with symptoms of Covid stays away for school, to avoid the risk of spreading infection to others, including the more vulnerable. These symptoms are:

- high temperature – feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)**
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

Over the last week we have seen a number of children being referred for a Covid 19 test in accordance with national guidance. If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case, they will be asked

to self-isolate at home. Please DO NOT try to get your child tested unless they have developed the symptoms of COVID19. A negative test result does not mean that they can go back to school; it simply means that they had not fully developed the illness at the time of the test, and they could develop the illness at any point in the 14 days.

We are very aware that in Plymouth, as elsewhere, there have been delays in accessing tests. This is a national issue as laboratory capacity for analysing tests is being directed to areas in the country with the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases. We are doing all we can to work with national agencies to increase the capacity available.

We understand how frustrating this can be, particularly with children returning to school and being asked to stay off school until they can get a COVID-19 test. However, it is crucial that we keep our schools open, and continue to keep our children and communities safe.

We therefore ask that you continue to follow government guidance and keep your child at home, and book a test as soon as you are able. You only need to get a test if your child has the symptoms listed above. If your child has these symptoms, it is really important that you do not send them to school. The test is best done in the first 5 days of having symptoms.

The current routes for getting a test are :

- Parents book a test online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/> or by calling 119
- If parents or carers are unable to book a local slot then they can email [d-ccg.cornwalldevon.urgenttesting@nhs.net](mailto:ccg.cornwalldevon.urgenttesting@nhs.net) explaining that the test is for a child attending a Plymouth school and they will be supported to access local testing.

If you cannot book a test immediately, we ask that you try again as the system is currently very busy and your patience is appreciated.

If you are not able to secure a test, it is important that your child remains away from school for the 10 day isolation period. As part of creating a Covid safe school, children must not return before the isolation period is over. Please work with your school to keep all children and young people safe.

You can also use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you're worried about your symptoms
- you're not sure what to do

Call 111 if you cannot get help online.

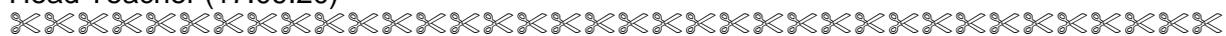
More advice on what to do can be found here. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

We would like to reassure you that we are working hard to put additional local arrangements in place to boost our local testing availability until national testing capacity can be increased and we will update you as soon as the situation changes.

**Judith Harwood**

Every morning I am outside school with other senior members of staff to discuss issues and address concerns, please feel free to come and speak to us.

B Jones  
Head Teacher (17.09.20)



After reading the recent newsletter, I would like to make the following comments:-

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Signed:..... Parent of:..... Child's Class:.....